



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Human Services Committee
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 312
June 10, 2019, 8:00AM

MINUTES

Attendance

Beth Kerrigan (Chair), Ben Wenograd, Chris Barnes (by phone), Shari Cantor (by phone)

Staff

Matt Hart (Town Manager), Helen Rubino-Turco (Leisure & Social Services Director), Martha Church (Library Services Director)

1. Call to Order

Chairwoman Kerrigan called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

2. Staff Reports

- a. **Library Update:** Martha Church provided this update to the committee. She discussed recent grants, awards and accolades the library has received including a \$5,000 grant to support the 2nd year of Faxon Fun summer experience for elementary students. The grant is from the Fisher Foundation at Hartford Foundation of Public Giving. The Library was named Best Library by Hartford Magazine for the 7th year in a row. The Program and Publicity team also won an award for its print design/package.

Faxon will be a summer lunch site for the 3rd year. The library will work with Foodshare and Fern Street Food Pantry to provide food backpacks to families in need.

She also discussed facilities, collections and services, and personnel items including vacancies and new hires.

June 21st is International Make Music Day and the Library has organized 3 back-to-back concerts. The Year of Happiness continues and USA Today recognized the Library on May 17th. The 2019 WH READS author is Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. She will be speaking on October 24th. Staff is working on a venue to host the event.

- b. **Leisure Services Update:** Helen Rubino-Turco provided this update to the committee. She discussed Social Services, including the upcoming lease agreement for HANOC, which the committee will see on the next Council agenda. The Town has a new Dial-A-Ride vendor, which was selected through the RFP process. CTS won the bid and will begin its contract on July 1st. The CRT Lunch Program provides free lunches at Elmwood Senior Center daily. Due to funding cuts, the program will now offer 4 meals a week. Staff is working on solutions and recently learned of a regional grant CRT received which may alleviate some of the concerns.

Regarding Leisure Services, staff has been pleased with Cornerstone and is looking forward to renewing the contract. Cornerstone will be closed for 2 weeks to accommodate the repair schedules. Staff has worked with neighboring locations to provide swim options for residents. The Town will serve as a registration hub for Friends of Fernridge for an upcoming fundraiser.

She also discussed various initiatives and activities related to the 10 minute walk campaign, including Parks Bingo. The department will be moving to a new Point of Sales system and registration will be done online.

Regarding personnel matters, she mentioned the housing rehabilitation program, which has been moved to social services. She detailed CDBG funding and explained what an entitlement community is (West Hartford).

She also discussed a number of new hires, promotions, and staffing matters.

3. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 AM.